

## PROJECT REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 28 2008

Please complete and send to John (j.d.milne@massey.ac.nz) on or before February 28, 2007.

Project Title: The power of design on flexible learning and digital network literacy

Author of report: Bronwyn Hegarty

Signature:

Date: 27 February 2008



### CURRENT STATUS

1. Report on milestones and if they have been met.

List milestones due on 28 February 2008	Have you achieved them? (Yes / No)
Milestone 2: Exploration of exemplar case studies	yes
Milestone 2: setup of networked learning and learning community space	yes

#### **Milestone : Exploration of exemplar case studies case studies**

Some case studies of teaching and learning at Otago Polytechnic have been investigated and three exemplar case studies have been written and published on WikiEducator on the project site. See:

The case studies are at:

[http://wikieducator.org/The\\_power\\_of\\_design\\_on\\_flexible\\_learning\\_and\\_digital\\_network\\_literacy#Case\\_Studies](http://wikieducator.org/The_power_of_design_on_flexible_learning_and_digital_network_literacy#Case_Studies)

Case study 1: Practical skills for veterinary nurses (CDrom)

Case study 2: Designing for Flexible Learning Practice

Case study 3: Facilitating online learning communities

#### **Milestone setup of networked learning and learning community space:**

The researchers use WikiEducator as a community learning space for the project. The researchers also belong to a networked learning email list serv group which has been set up for academic staff at Otago Polytechnic. This group shares practice around web 2.0 tools and strategies and social networking. People who participate in the course that this project is evaluating (Designing for Flexible Learning Practice), are invited to join the Networked learning community during the course and also when they have finished the course.

#### **Progress in the research evaluation – milestone 3:**

Progress reports and processes can be viewed at:

[http://wikieducator.org/The power of design on flexible learning and digital network literacy](http://wikieducator.org/The_power_of_design_on_flexible_learning_and_digital_network_literacy)

Ethics approval was obtained on 29 November 2007. Two debrief interviews between the course lecturers (also the researchers) have been conducted by an external interviewer and these being transcribed by a transcriber who is external to Otago Polytechnic.

Participants who completed the Designing for Flexible Learning Practice course (n=23) have been invited to participate in the research evaluation. The first focus groups ran on the 8 February with the external interviewer, Joanna Cobley facilitating them. Six participants attended though nine had responded and then were unable to attend. The recordings are currently being transcribed.

Further focus groups will be facilitated in April – two face-to face and one on computer conference for some participants now living at some distance from Otago Polytechnic or on leave (n=4).

An online survey has been disseminated to participants and a reminder email will be sent out shortly. Response rates have not yet been checked. The next step is to write up the research process in more detail as a formal evaluation plan on the project wiki with a more detailed timeline; content from this will contribute to the final report.

Analysis of data is expected to begin mid March.

2. Does the project require any support?

Not at this stage.

## FUTURE PLANS

3. List the milestones scheduled for completion on 30 June 2008.

Milestone 3: Research evaluation

Milestone 3: Case study published on guidelines website

Milestone 3: Completion of project

4. Is the project on track to meet these milestones? If not please give a brief explanation.

Yes.

5. Outline the three major risks and plans to mitigate them.

- a. Low responses to online survey – participants will be sent an email reminder about the survey and contacted by phone by an independent person not involved in the research if no increase in responses.
- b. No further responses to invitation to join a focus group – I will ask the interviewer to make contact via phone and email as they may be intimidated by the prospect of disclosing information about the course and may not fully understand that the lecturers from the course under evaluation who are also the researchers will not be involved in any way – apart from looking at anonymous and confidential transcriptions .
- c. Data will not be analysed in time to write up the project by 30 June – clear deadline for gathering data has been set and timeline for writing up.

6. Are any significant changes required to the project plan or milestones? If so give an explanation of the changes with dates of new milestones.

No.

7. Is the project on track to complete all of its objectives on June 2008? If not please give a brief explanation.

Yes so far so good.